

HOUSE No. 653

By Mr. Goguen of Fitchburg, petition of Emile J. Goguen and Philip Travis for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the definition of marriage. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO DEFINE MARRIAGE AS THE UNION OF ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN.

1 A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House
2 of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expe-
3 dient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following
4 Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of
5 the4 Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the
6 next General Court and approved by the people at the state elec-
7 tion next following]:

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 It being the public policy of this Commonwealth to protect the
10 unique relationship of marriage, in order to promote, among other
11 goals, the stability and welfare of society and the best interests of
12 children, only the union of one man and one woman shall be valid
13 or recognized as a marriage in Massachusetts. Any other relation-
14 ship shall not be recognized as a marriage or its legal equivalent,
15 nor shall it receive the benefits or incidents exclusive to marriage
16 from the Commonwealth, its agencies, departments, authorities,
17 commissions, offices, officials and political subdivisions.